

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 145614
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BKIRKPATRICK/MPH
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
AF/I:WHLEWIS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
AF ONLY

-----054128 231219Z /50
R 222343Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145614

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SHUM, IV

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: COUNTRY ACTION PLAN FOR IVORY COAST

REF: STATE 139160

1. THE GEOGRAPHIC BUREAUS HAVE BEEN TASKED TO PREPARE HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION REPORTS INCLUDING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EACH COUNTRY AND THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THOSE CONDITIONS.
2. THIS CABLE TRANSMITS THE DESK'S DRAFT REPORT FOR YOUR COMMENTS. YOUR RESPONSE IS REQUESTED BY JUNE 28 SO THAT THE BUREAU CAN MEET THE SUBMISSION DATE OF JULY 1. SLUG CABLE FOR AF DISTRIBUTION ONLY.
3. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE COUNTRY EVALUATION WILL BE CLASSIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. RE-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 145614

PORTS WILL BE USED AS SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THE PREPARATION OF ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON ALL COUNTRIES WHICH ARE RECIPIENTS OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND WILL BE SU0MITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATING COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY.

4.A.CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN IVORY COAST

(1) RESPECT FOR INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

A. TORTURE: INSTANCES UNKNOWN.

B. CRUEL INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT: LOWER ECONOMIC LEVELS EXPERIENCE ROUGH HANDLING BY AUTHORITIES BUT NOT BELIEVED TO BE SEVERE.

C. ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT: GENERALLY NOT DONE. GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE FIRM MEASURES TO SUPPRESS PUBLIC PROTESTS OR PLOTTING AGAINST GOVERNMENT. ONLY RECENT INSTANCE IS TEMPORARY DETENTION OF STUDENTS IN EARLY 1977, ALL OF WHOM TO OUR KNOWLEDGE RELEASED.
OCTOBER 1975
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WROTE PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON AN AMNESTY FOR SOME 5,000 PRISONERS INCLUDING SOME 85 POLITICAL PRISONERS.

D. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL: RIGHT TO FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL, PATTERNED AFTER FRENCH SYSTEM, GENERALLY OBSERVED.

3. INVASION OF THE HOME: NOT BELIEVED TO BE COMMON PRACTICE. BELIEVED TO BE AUTHORIZED ONLY WHEN PROBABILITY THAT CRIME COMMITTED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 145614

(2) RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES

A. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, RELIGION AND ASSEMBLY: GENERALLY OBSERVED UNLESS ASSEMBLY LEADING TO DISTURBANCE IN WHICH CASE TEMPORARY DETENTION LIKELY. PRESS IS GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED BUT MANY PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN A COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION POLICIES: GENERALLY LIBERAL.

C. DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ASSURING THE FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS: IVORY COAST IS A ONE PARTY STATE

AND HOUPHOUET HAS BEEN PRESIDENT SINCE 1960 AND HAS REGULARLY BEEN REELECTED BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITIES. OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS BUT HAVE MINIMAL INFLUENCE.

(3) RECENT TRENDS IN GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION.

A. POLICIES DESIGNED TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE POOR:
THE IVORY COAST HAS A RELATIVELY PROSPEROUS AND GROWING ECONOMY WHICH IS CHARACTERIZED BY WIDENING INCOME DISPARITIES, BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NUMEROUS PROGRAMS TO UPLIFT THE URBAN AND RURAL POOR AND HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

POLICIES WHICH TEND TO IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THE POOR:
EMPHASIS ON CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OVER SOCIAL PROGRAMS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS IGNORING NEEDS OF POOR IN SHORT RUN BUT IN LONG RUN SHOULD BENEFIT POOR AS ECONOMY IMPROVES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 145614

C. CORRUPTION OF SUCH A NATURE THAT SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES ARE DIVERTED TOWARDS THE NATION'S ELITE AND AWAY FROM THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION: CORRUPTION BELIEVED TO BE NORMAL FOR SOCIETY AT THIS LIMITED STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT WITH PERSONAL AND GROUP RELATIONSHIPS REMAINING MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN LEGAL AND REGULATORY INSTITUTIONS. MANY RUMORS OF CORRUPTION, SOME ON A SUBSTANTIAL SCALE AT HIGH LEVELS. SIGNIFICANT INSTANCES OF DIVERSION OF FUNDS AWAY FROM PEOPLE NOT EVIDENT BUT DIVERSION BELIEVED TO OCCUR.

(4) LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREGOING HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

A. EXTENT TO WHICH POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS MEASURES ARE ARTICULATED AS PUBLIC POLICY: IVORY COAST HAS A REPUTATION AS A MODERATE AND PROGRESSIVE STATE. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY "DIALOGUE". IVORY COAST GENERALLY DOES NOT MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ARTICULATE PUBLIC POLICY IN TERMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BUT ITS POLICIES ARE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE.

B. EXTENT TO WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONDONED AS PUBLIC POLICY BECAUSE OF SECURITY OR OTHER JUSTIFICATIONS: GENERALLY VIOLATIONS ARE NOT CONDONED OR JUSTIFIED BUT, AS INDICATED ABOVE, GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO TAKE FIRM MEASURES TO COUNTERACT RARE INSTANCES OF PUBLIC PROTEST OR PLOTTING.

(5) WILLINGNESS AND PAST RECORD OF GOVERNMENT REGARDING INDEPENDENT OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS: RECORD NOT CLEAR. IVORY COAST CONSIDERS INTERNAL SECURITY A MATTER OF SOVEREIGNTY. MOST RECENT COMMENTS OF RECORD FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WERE FAVOR-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 145614

ABLE.

5. B. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) OBJECTIVES OVER NEXT THREE TO 12 MONTHS FOR 1, 2 AND 3 ABOVE: IVORY COAST'S MODERATE RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS SUGGESTS THAT OBJECTIVES DESIGNED TO ENLIST IVORY COAST SUPPORT FOR US HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES IN GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PERFECTION OF GENERALLY GOOD RECORD. (SEE 4 B BELOW.)

(2) PRINCIPAL REACTION IN HOST COUNTRY TO US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND EMBASSY ACTIONS AND PROPOSED ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THESE POLICIES: US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS BEEN GIVEN RELATIVELY WIDE DISSEMINATION IN IVORY COAST VIA THE MEDIA. THE REACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS GENERALLY FAVORABLE. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY RECENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR YOUNG THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH IN IVORY COAST HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE OF REPRESSION. HE STATED THERE WERE PRESENTLY NO POLITICAL PRISONERS OR DETAINEES IN THE IVORY COAST AND THAT NO ONE HAD BEEN EXECUTED SINCE INDEPENDENCE. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF REACTION OF NON-GOVERNMENT GROUPS TO OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES.

(3) IMPLICATIONS OF PARA 2 FOR POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE CHANGES IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS: SEE PARA 1 ABOVE AND PARA 4 BELOW.

(4) A. IMPACT OF PROPOSED ACTIONS ON US INTERESTS: SEE PARA 1 ABOVE AND PARA 4 B BELOW.

B. LIKELIHOOD OF HOST GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: THE IVORY COAST PRIDES ITSELF ON A CONSTRUCTIVE AND MODERATE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 145614

GOVERNMENT GENERALLY PREFERS TO OPERATE IN PRIVATE BUT IS PREPARED TO SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE. ON MAY 12 IVORY COAST WAS ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

OBJECTIVE: OBTAIN IVORY COAST SUPPORT FOR US HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND POSSIBLY WITH INDIVI-

DUAL COUNTRIES.

IMPORTANCE: PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IS A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE WHOSE SUPPORT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN INFLUENCING MANY LEADERS, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA.

FEASIBILITY: WE CAN EXPECT A RECEPTIVE IVORIAN ATTITUDE TO OUR REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT BUT MUST NOT EXPECT THEM TO MAKE AN UNREALISTIC EFFORT OR TO PRODUCE UNUSUAL RESULTS.

US LEVERAGE: OUR CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP AND IDEOLOGICAL COMPATIBILITY WITH THE IVORY COAST.

LIKELY INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT: IVORY COAST HAS EXTENSIVE CORDIAL CONTACTS BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS WITH MANY COUNTRIES.

OPTIONS:

1. DIRECT EMBASSY TO SEEK IVORY COAST SUPPORT AT ITS DISCRETION ON SPECIFIED HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, SUCH AS THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE IFI'S.

2. EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF IVORY COAST SUPPORT ON CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY CASES SUCH AS TOGO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 145614

RECOMMENDATIONS:

TAKE ACTION ALONG LINES OF OPTIONS 1 AND 2 ABOVE.

6. POST MAY WISH TO REVISE CORRUPTION SECTION IN VIEW OF ABIDJAN 5647 AND 5903.

CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE145614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BKIRKPATRICK/MPH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770224-0690
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770629/aaaaazoe.tel
Line Count: 265
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 566c6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 139160
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2064051
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: COUNTRY ACTION PLAN FOR IVORY COAST
TAGS: SHUM, IV
To: ABIDJAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/566c6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009